

~~subgroups of optical signals traveling in a first direction and a second set of subgroups of optical signals traveling in a second direction;~~

~~a first plurality of fine wavelength division multiplexers configured to support uni-directional traffic comprising the first set of subgroups of optical signals;~~

~~a second plurality of fine wavelength division demultiplexers configured to support uni-directional traffic comprising the second set of subgroups of optical signals;~~

~~a first plurality of optical line amplifiers, each of the first plurality of optical line amplifiers configured to amplify a different respective subgroup of the first set of subgroups of optical signals; and~~

~~a second plurality of optical line amplifiers, each of the second plurality of optical line amplifiers configured to amplify a different respective subgroup of the second set of subgroups of optical signals.~~

Please add the following claims:

~~78. (New) The system of claim 77, wherein the first set of subgroups of optical signals corresponds to a first set of subwindows within the operating window.~~

~~79. (New) The system of claim 78, wherein each of the first set of subwindows corresponds to different channels of the set of multiple channels.~~

~~80. (New) The system of claim 78, wherein the second set of subgroups of optical signals corresponds to a second set of subwindows within the operating window, wherein the first set of subwindows is different than the second set of subwindows.~~

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H1 } 81. (New) A system for equalizing optical gain across a set of channels within an operating window of a fiber communication network, comprising:

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Cont } a coarse wavelength division multiplexing/demultiplexing unit configured to support bi-directional optical signal traffic within the operating window, the operating window comprising a first set of subwindows traveling in a first direction and a second set of subwindows traveling in a second direction, the first set of subwindows comprising different channels of the set of channels than the second set of subwindows;

a first plurality of fine wavelength division multiplexers configured to support uni-directional traffic comprising the first set of subwindows;

a second plurality of fine wavelength division demultiplexers configured to support uni-directional traffic comprising the second set of subwindows;

a first plurality of optical line amplifiers, each of the first plurality of optical line amplifiers configured to amplify a different respective subwindow of the first set of subwindows traveling in the first direction; and

a second plurality of optical line amplifiers, each of the second plurality of optical line amplifiers configured to amplify a different respective subwindow of the second set of subwindows traveling in the second direction,